

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 164

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of César Estrada Chávez and the farm labor movement.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 15, 2003

Mr. MCCAIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of César Estrada Chávez and the farm labor movement.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “César Estrada Chávez  
5       Study Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

8               (1) on March 31, 1927, César Estrada Chávez  
9       was born on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona;

1           (2) at age 10, Chávez and his family became  
2           migrant farm workers after they lost their farm in  
3           the Great Depression;

4           (3) throughout his youth and into adulthood,  
5           Chávez migrated across the Southwest, laboring in  
6           fields and vineyards;

7           (4) during this period, Chávez was exposed to  
8           the hardships and injustices of farm worker life;

9           (5) in 1952, Chávez's life as an organizer and  
10          public servant began when he left the fields and  
11          joined the Community Service Organization, a com-  
12          munity-based self-help organization;

13          (6) while with the Community Service Organi-  
14          zation, Chávez conducted—

15                (A) voter registration drives; and

16                (B) campaigns against racial and economic  
17          discrimination;

18          (7) during the late 1950's and early 1960's,  
19          Chávez served as the national director of the Com-  
20          munity Service Organization;

21          (8) in 1962, Chávez founded the National Farm  
22          Workers Association, an organization that—

23                (A) was the first successful farm workers  
24          union in the United States; and

1 (B) became known as the “United Farm  
2 Workers of America”;

3 (9) from 1962 to 1993, as leader of United  
4 Farm Workers of America, Chávez achieved for tens  
5 of thousands of farm workers—

6 (A) dignity and respect;

7 (B) fair wages;

8 (C) medical coverage;

9 (D) pension benefits;

10 (E) humane living conditions; and

11 (F) other rights and protections;

12 (10) the leadership and humanitarianism of  
13 César Chávez continue to influence and inspire mil-  
14 lions of citizens of the United States to seek social  
15 justice and civil rights for the poor and  
16 disenfranchised; and

17 (11) the life of César Chávez and his family  
18 provides an outstanding opportunity to illustrate and  
19 interpret the history of agricultural labor in the  
20 western United States.

21 **SEC. 3. RESOURCE STUDY.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the  
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior  
24 (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall com-  
25 plete a resource study of sites in the State of Arizona,

1 the State of California, and other States that are signifi-  
 2 cant to the life of César E. Chávez and the farm labor  
 3 movement in the western United States to determine—

4 (1) appropriate methods for preserving and in-  
 5 terpreting the sites; and

6 (2) whether any of the sites meets the criteria  
 7 for listing on the National Register of Historic  
 8 Places or designation as a national historic land-  
 9 mark under—

10 (A) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C.  
 11 461 et seq.); and

12 (B) the National Historic Preservation Act  
 13 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

14 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the study under  
 15 subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

16 (1) consider the criteria for the study of areas  
 17 for potential inclusion in the National Park System  
 18 under section 8(b)(2) of Public Law 91–383 (16  
 19 U.S.C. 1a–5(b)(2)); and

20 (2) consult with—

21 (A) the César E. Chávez Foundation;

22 (B) the United Farm Workers Union;

23 (C) State and local historical associations  
 24 and societies; and

1 (D) the State Historic Preservation Offi-  
2 cers of the State of Arizona, the State of Cali-  
3 fornia, and any other State in which a site de-  
4 scribed in subsection (a) is located.

5 (c) REPORT.—On completion of the study under sub-  
6 section (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee  
7 on Resources of the House of Representatives and the  
8 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-  
9 ate a report on—

10 (1) the findings of the study; and

11 (2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

12 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
13 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
14 essary to carry out this Act.

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